



Congressman Tim Bishop

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CLINTON, BISHOP WELCOME CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PLANNED UPGRADES TO PLUM ISLAND

Washington, DC – Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congressman Tim Bishop today welcomed the news that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Procurement Operations will be announcing on Monday that a contract will be awarded for infrastructure upgrades at Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC).

"The research conducted at Plum Island Animal Disease Center is vital to protecting our food supply and agricultural industries. I applaud this investment in the facility's infrastructure that will allow this important work to continue and grow," said Senator Clinton.

"These upgrades will improve security and research capability at Plum Island, which strengthens my belief that it can still play an important role as a Bio-Safety Level 3 facility," Bishop said. "While I understand the need for a new, Bio-Safety Level 4 facility, I do not believe it would be prudent for our nation to place all of its bio and agro-defense needs in one basket."

According to DHS, the contract award will go to the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company of Baltimore, Maryland. The initial award (representing the preconstruction fees only) is \$203,000 and the value with options (the estimated cost of construction) is \$24,000,000. In summary, the contractor shall provide the construction of infrastructure upgrades at PIADC, with key components of this contract include:

- Construct an expansion of the bio-safety level three (agriculture) (BSL-3ag) facilities to house more research animals required due to increased mission responsibilities.
- Upgrade and expand utility systems to accommodate increased demand to operate the new wing and to correct previously identified deficiencies.
- Upgrade and expand existing necropsy facilities to accommodate demand coinciding with the new wing and to enhance capabilities for veterinary instruction.
- Covert underutilized space in the existing containment facility to increase laboratory space.

Senator Clinton and Congressman Bishop have long stressed the vital role that Plum Island Animal Disease Center plays in protecting our agriculture. They are supportive of improving Plum Island and continuing its mission as a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facility.

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